In the Claims

1-12 (canceled).

13 (new). A method of treating autoimmune and/or inflammatory diseases and/or bacterial and viral infections comprising orally administering a RANTES polypeptide having at least 90% homology with the wild-type molecule, said polypeptide comprising at least one non-conservative mutation in the 40's dibasic site at residues 44-47 and having a reduced GAG-binding activity.

14 (new). The method according to claim 13, wherein the polypeptide has three or more amino acid substitutions, said substitutions including positions 44, 45, and 47 of the RANTES polypeptide.

15 (new). The method according to claim 13, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

16 (new). The method according to claim 14, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

17 (new). A method of antagonizing the activity of RANTES comprising orally administering a RANTES polypeptide having at least 90% homology with the wild-type molecule, said polypeptide comprising at least one non-conservative mutation in the 40's dibasic site at residues 44-47 and having a reduced GAG-binding activity.

18 (new). The method according to claim 17, wherein the polypeptide has three or more amino acid substitutions, said substitutions including positions 44, 45, and 47 of the RANTES polypeptide.

19 (new). The method according to claim 17, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

20 (new). The method according to claim 18, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

21. (new) A method of administering a composition to an individual comprising:

a) preparing a composition comprising a RANTES polypeptide having at least 90% homology with the corresponding wild-type (WT) molecule, said polypeptide comprising at least one non-conservative mutation in the 40's dibasic site at residues 44-47 and having a reduced GAG-binding activity; and

b) orally administering said composition to an individual.

22 (new). The method according to claim 21, wherein the individual has an autoimmune disease, an inflammatory disease, a bacterial infection, or a viral infection.

23 (new). The method according to claim 21, wherein the polypeptide has three or more amino acid substitutions, said substitutions including positions 44, 45, and 47 of the RANTES polypeptide.

24 (new). The method according to claim 21, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

25 (new). The method according to claim 23, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

26 (new). The method according to claim 22, wherein the polypeptide has three or more amino acid substitutions, said substitutions including positions 44, 45, and 47 of the RANTES polypeptide.

27 (new). The method according to claim 26, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

28 (new). The method according to claim 22, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

29 (new). The method according to claim 22, wherein the individual has an autoimmune disease.

30 (new). The method according to claim 22, wherein the individual has an inflammatory disease.

31 (new). The method according to claim 22, wherein the individual has a bacterial infection.

32 (new). The method according to claim 22, wherein the individual has a viral infection.

33 (new). The method according to claim 29, wherein the autoimmune disease is multiple sclerosis.